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Do Law School Enrollment Figures Justify Alarm?

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placement. The school proposes, however, to create an effective placement service for future graduates. We shall certainly not confine ourselves to seeking law office connections or to locating towns where a shingle may be hung with some hope that it will not soon be ruefully taken down.

The Colorado Bar Association Committee on Economic Survey and Placement has done a splendid job in counselling young lawyers who have consulted its members. It has been generous in meeting and guiding those who have sought its aid, but little encouragement could be given them, for perplexingly few desirable openings in practice have come to its attention.

It is respectfully suggested that, through the office of the secretary or otherwise, the Colorado and local bar associations could cooperate productively with the schools in setting up a placement service. Undoubtedly an early step should be a careful canvass of every locality in the state for positions open in law and in related businesses. The bar could thus both serve itself, its young attorneys, and the entire community. The present "flash flood" of law school graduates would not then seem too threatening.

VII. Conclusion

In the February 1948 issue of the *Bar Examiner*, J. Virgil Cory, member of the Ohio Bar Examining Committee, met possible critics of his state's bar admission policy with this wise and warm-hearted statement: "I believe that bar examiners should be scrupulously careful not to eliminate applicants merely because of the temporary swollen number of applicants."

We believe, similarly, that well-qualified applicants for admission to law schools should not, because of their temporarily swollen numbers, be denied admission within the bounds set by a school's limitations of faculty, physical facilities, and funds. We believe that with a sound program of legal instruction offered by the law schools, with careful selection of candidates for admission to the bar by our board of bar examiners, and with a placement bureau jointly and effectively conducted by the schools and the bar associations, we can move to a new position assuring a better bar and wider usefulness to the profession and the community.

Do Law School Enrollment Figures Justify Alarm?

By DAVID C. WHITLOW AND PHILIP G. GREGG

(Written while students at the University of Denver College of Law)

The present increased enrollments in law schools has been cited by some writers as a cause for alarm. There are, however, some aspects of the problem which have been apparently overlooked by these "alarmists" and which should be called to the attention of the thoughtful observer.

Admittedly, there are more students in law schools today than ever before in the history of this nation; but we are entering a new era with new problems and responsibilities, and there is no reason to believe that the services of these new lawyers will not be needed in years to come.

The number of persons entering the profession has been considered large since the time when the memory of these writers runneth not to the contrary. The principal difference between the present situation and the way it shaped up before the war lies in the fact that the typical law graduate of today is a much older man. Very likely, he has a family to support, and he can scarcely afford to spend several years "getting established" during which time his income will be substantially less than his necessary expenditures.

For those who are easily frightened by the large student population, it would be helpful to compare some statistics showing the total law school registration in the United States during the decade preceding the war years with corresponding statistics for the years during and following the war.

<i>Fall Registration During Year</i>	<i>Total Students Enrolled¹</i>	<i>Cumulative Deficit²</i>
1930.....	40,847	
1931.....	39,417	
1932.....	38,260	
1933.....	38,771	
1934.....	40,211	
1935.....	41,920	
1936.....	40,218	(There was an annual average
1937.....	39,255	of 39,084 for the years 1930
1938.....	37,406	through 1939 after which the
1939.....	34,539	enrollment dropped off sharply.)
1940.....	30,036	9,048
1941.....	23,063	25,069
1942.....	10,019	54,134
1943.....	6,428	86,790
1944.....	7,493	118,381
1945.....	11,600	145,865
1946.....	39,775	145,174
1947.....	52,483	131,775
1948.....	56,914 ³	113,945

If it be assumed that law school enrollment during the current decade would have maintained a par with the enrollment for the preceding decade had the war not intervened, the figures in the above table indicate that, as of 1948, this country had a cumulative "deficit" of almost 114,000 law students. However, it should be mentioned that a great number of the law schools have been operating year around since the war, and a student is able to graduate in approximately 27 months in law school, whereas before the war it took 33 months to get the same degree. So the student-year deficit would actually be

¹ *The Bar Examiner*, August, 1948 at page 139.

² Supplied by the authors.

³ *The Bar Examiner*, April, 1949 at page 86.

somewhat less than the 114,000 shown above because of these accelerated programs.

At any rate, it is apparent from the figures shown above that the present infiltration from the law schools does not present an unexpected or previously unknown threat to the legal profession. If the situation tends to cause alarm at present, it is due to the fact that while the "war deficit" is being reduced, absorption of new law graduates into the profession is not being sufficiently accelerated. The real problem is one of placement, finding and filling the positions left unoccupied during the war years and realizing the new opportunities extant in this post war period.

Junior Bar Tax Institute Begins October 25

The 1949 Junior Bar Institute, jointly sponsored by the Junior Bar section of the Colorado Bar Association and the University of Denver College of Law, will get under way on Tuesday, October 25. This year's institute, the second consecutive one under similar auspices, will deal with miscellaneous Federal income tax problems, and will be conducted by William L. Branch and Robert A. Lauterbach, Denver tax lawyers.

There will be six sessions beginning promptly at 8:15 p.m. on successive Tuesday nights extending from October 25 to November 29. The meetings will be held in the University of Denver law library at 1416 Court Place, Denver, and all members of the Colorado Bar Association are invited to attend. As in the case of the first Junior Bar Institute on real estate problems, no registration fee or other charge will be made.

H. Harold Calkins, institute chairman, has announced the following schedule of lectures:

October 25—Introduction to material: the Code, regulations, and departmental rulings; unwritten requirements; substance v. form; business purpose; step transactions; constructive receipt and cash equivalent.

November 1—Tax considerations in selecting a form of business organization: various organization types; associations taxable as corporations; contrast of corporation and partnership in organization, operation and liquidation.

November 8—Buying and selling a business: tax investigation required; purchase of assets v. acquisition of corporate stock; classification of assets; allocation of price to group assets.

November 15—Taxation and deduction of alimony; penalty tax on corporations.

November 22 and 29—Preparing 1949 individual tax returns; practical problems involving typical transactions.

James Owen, former district judge and one of the patriarchs of the Colorado bar, died on September 21, 1949. Mr. Owen was judge of the Fourth Judicial District from 1907 to 1913. Prior to that time he had had an active political career as district attorney and state senator. He had been in a retired status since about 1940.